Judicial Branch Policy Regarding Law Enforcement Activity in Courthouses

Background and Purpose: The safety and security of all courthouses is a top priority and fundamental responsibility of the Judicial Branch. All security related policies are essential to protect the safety and well-being of litigants, judges, court staff and members of the public. This policy is intended to ensure that all law enforcement activity in courthouses is consistent with those principles while ensuring that law enforcement officers can discharge their duties in a safe and responsible manner.

Authority: U.S. Const., amend. I, V, VI, and X; Conn. Const., art. I, §§ 8 and 10; General Statutes §§ 4b-11, 6-32f, 51-1b, 51-5a, and 51-9.

Policy: No person shall be subject to arrest while inside the public areas of a courthouse except pursuant to a judicial warrant or order issued or signed by a judicial officer. For purposes of this policy, "judicial officer" shall have the same meaning as in the Connecticut Trust Act, General Statutes § 54-192h.

No person shall, while carrying out the enforcement of the laws of this State, any other state or the United States government, wear any mask or other covering that obscures the face of such person while inside a courthouse, unless medically necessary with prior authorization from a judicial authority.

Exceptions: This policy shall not apply to the following:

Peace officers, as defined in General Statutes § 53a-3, to the extent necessary to carry out their duties and responsibilities pursuant to General Statutes §§ 6-32f and 54-1f in the enforcement of the criminal laws of this State.

Effective September 16, 2025